

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with J. Scot Wickhem on 3/23/2010.

Claim 1

A guidewire comprising:

an elongated inner core member including a proximal section and a distal section, the distal section including a proximal portion and a distal portion;

an elongated reinforcing member having a proximal end and a distal end and an inner surface extending between the proximal and the distal end, the elongated reinforcing member disposed in a fixed position about the proximal portion of the distal section of the core member such that the distal portion of the distal section of the core member is free of the reinforcing member and such that the inner surface of the elongated reinforcing member is in contact with the proximal portion of the core member long the entire length of the reinforcing member from the proximal end to the distal end of the reinforcing member; and

an outer coil member having a proximal end and a distal end, the outer coil member disposed about the distal section of the core member, there being no intervening layer of material

between the distal portion of the distal section of the inner core member and the outer coil member; and

the outer coil member is located exterior of the elongated reinforcing member such that there exists an unoccupied space between the entire perimeter of the elongated reinforcing member and the outer coil member;

wherein the proximal end of the outer coil member is located proximal of the proximal end of the elongated reinforcing member.

Claim 13

A guidewire comprising:

an elongated inner core member, the core member having a proximal region and a distal region with at least a portion of the distal region including stainless steel, the distal region having a proximal section and a distal section;

an elongated reinforcing member including a nickel-titanium alloy disposed in a fixed position about the inner core member, the reinforcing member having a proximal end and a distal end and a length extending from the proximal end to the distal end, wherein the distal end terminates proximal of the distal section of the distal region of the core member and wherein the reinforcing member contacts the core member along the entire length of the reinforcing member;

wherein the reinforcing member comprises a tube having at least one cut or groove defined therein; and

an outer coil member having a proximal end and a distal end, the outer coil member disposed over the distal section of the core member and at least a portion of the reinforcing member; and

the outer coil member is located exterior of the elongated reinforcing member such that there exists an unoccupied space between the entire perimeter of the elongated reinforcing member and the outer coil member;

wherein the proximal end of the outer coil member is located proximal of the proximal end of the reinforcing member.

Claim 19

The guidewire of Claim 13, wherein the at least one cut or groove is a helical cut or groove defined along ~~a~~ the length of the reinforcing member.

Claim 22

A guidewire comprising:

an elongated inner core member including stainless steel, the inner core member including a proximal portion having a first cross-sectional area, an intermediate portion having a second cross-sectional area, wherein the second cross-sectional area is less than the first cross-sectional area, and a distal portion having a ribbon profile;

an elongated tubular member including a nickel-titanium alloy, the tubular member having a proximal end and a distal end and a length extending from the proximal end to the distal end, the tubular member being disposed in a fixed position about the intermediate portion of the

inner core member and in contact with the intermediate portion along the entire length of the tubular member;

wherein the reinforcing member comprises a tube having at least one cut or groove defined therein; and

a coil tip including stainless steel, the coil tip having a proximal end and a distal end, the coil tip extending over the distal portion of the inner core member and the tubular member;

the coil tip is located exterior of the elongated tubular member such that there exists an unoccupied space between the entire perimeter of the elongated tubular member and the coil tip;

wherein the proximal end of the coil tip is located proximal of the proximal end of the tubular member; and

the coil tip has an outside diameter, wherein the outside diameter of the coil tip is substantially equal to the diameter of the proximal portion of the core member ~~configured~~ to create a smooth transition from the core member to the coil tip.

2. Also, in light of the allowance of generic Claim 1, previously withdrawn **Claims 5-7** as drawn toward a non-elected species are hereby rejoined and the restriction election dated 2/22/2007 vacated.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HELEN NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571)272-8340. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 9 am - 6 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Max Hindenburg can be reached on 571-272-4726. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/H. N./
Examiner, Art Unit 3736

/Max Hindenburg/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3736